



Get Connected

Ministries at St. Francis

Welcome!

There are twenty-one different groups, guilds, and opportunities listed in this 2024 Get Connected Sunday booklet. Every one of these groups is about service, community, or both (but not community service, per se). This is not an exhaustive list of everything we do, but it captures the high points.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups but don't know who to talk to, you may either email the contact person listed under each ministry or talk to one of our clergy — they are easy to spot as they will be the only ones wearing white collars from the 1890s.

We pray that if you find yourself wanting to take a more active role in the life of the church one of these groups speaks to your soul. There is a place for everyone in the larger life of the church and we welcome you to join us.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild prepares the church for worship each Sunday. They set up everything needed for Holy Eucharist, make sure that there are flowers on the altar, and that the candles are full of oil. They decorate the church for Christmas and Easter, putting a lot of thought, time and energy into making beautiful displays. The Altar Guild also cleans and irons all of the linens used during the service, clean and polish all the silver used in the service and store it securely. If you enjoy the ritual of the service and are detail oriented, this is the group for you.

Contact:

Sara Briggs

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Acolytes

Acolytes carry the torches (candles), the cross, and help the clergy during the service. It is a way for children and teens to be actively involved in the service. It is a great way to better understand the how and why of our liturgical tradition. And who doesn't like to play with fire and long sticks?

Contact:

Fr. Jason Shelby

(310) 594-7984

jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Antiques Show

The Annual Antiques Show has been in operation for over 53 years, and it is the chief fundraiser for the ECW and the church. Antique dealers throughout the region come to the event, and it is spectacular. Jamie Bellows heads up the show and is ably assisted by a dedicated cadre of volunteers. Opportunities for getting involved in the Antiques Show abound: you can help set up/tear down booths in the parish hall; cook or serve food; help clean; bartend; take tickets at the door or help with promotion beforehand.

Contact:

Jamie Bellows

bellows151@aol.com

Audio-Visual Team

The Audio-Visual Team at St. Francis takes care of streaming our 10am service online, to both Facebook and YouTube.

They also livestream other services (such as funerals) as they are able. You don't need to be a computer witch or wizard to do this; the major prerequisite is that you are not afraid of technology.

Contact:

Fabrizio Pelá

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Choir

If you enjoy singing and standing in front, then you should join the Choir! The Choir adds umph to our congregational singing, as well as performing anthems, solos, and music during communion. The Choir is a wonderful place to enrich your journey with Christ, and they are always ready to welcome new members.

Contact:

Dr. Mark Bennett

Director of Music

(310) 594-7416

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Christian Education

Christian Education covers a lot of territory, including Sunday school, youth group, adult education, the Lenten Programs, and inquirer's classes. If you would like to teach or lead a Bible study or book club, or if you would like to work with children/teens, let us know, and we will make it happen.

Contact:

Fr. Jason Shelby

(310) 594-7984

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Christian Life

Again, this is an umbrella term that covers a lot and could truly cover everything we do. For this booklet, we are limiting it to Taizé, Good Grief, and SAGES:

Taizé: This a meditative prayer service held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, modeled on the services held in Taizé, France. It is held in the chapel with hundreds of candles, making it a very holy and somber space.

Good Grief: This is a support group for people who are grieving: a death in their family, a family member with a debilitating illness, the loss of a job, spouse or friend, or just having a rough go of life in general.

SAGES: Senior Adult Group of Episcopalians is for people who are retired or able to go out during the day. We play Bunco, go to museums, have cookouts, and talk about how wonderful it is to be retired or not have to work during the day.

Contact:

Kristina Pelá

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Episcopal Church Women

All baptized women are considered members of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). At St Francis we have a strong women's auxiliary including two guilds: St. Anne's and St. Teresa's. Their members support outreach projects and community organizations with funds raised at a Christmas auction and Chinese New Year's celebration, respectively. Each also provides its members with a strong "community". The main ECW fundraiser is the Annual Antiques Show.

Contact:

Anna Eakins

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Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Before COVID-19 they were called Chalice Bearers, but now that communion is done differently, they are referred to as Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs). They help the clergy distribute the elements (bread and wine) during communion. If you would like to join the altar party and become an integral part of the service, contact Father Jason.

Contact:

Fr. Jason Shelby

(310) 594-7984

jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Fellowship

Fellowship encompasses everything from Sunday morning coffee to Shrove Tuesday dinner, Lenten Program meals, Easter bunny bookings, Easter egg hunts, Mother's Day appreciation, graduating Senior Sunday, Get Connected Sunday, St. Francis Sunday, and Advent Wreath making. If you enjoy planning events, cooking, setting tables, making centerpieces, picking up food, or washing dishes and collecting garbage, you should join Fellowship.

Contact:

Mary Deley

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Friars

The Friars do much of the work listed in fellowship, though more cooking/cleaning than planning/decorating. If you love to cook and/or clean, join the Friars!

Contact:

Dick Briggs

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Outreach

Outreach is what we call anything that we do for people outside of the congregation. It is collecting and sorting clothes from the blue bin, making lunches for St. Luke's Homeless Ministry on Fridays, making Breakfast for St. Luke's on Sundays and passing out clothing, collecting items for Camp Pendleton, or making blessing bags for the homeless. If you feel called to help others outside of church, consider participating in one of our many outreach opportunities.

Contact:

Gayle Taylor

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Readers / Lectors

This is exactly what it sounds like; readers read the lessons for the day. Typically, one person reads the first lesson and then leads the Psalm, and another person reads the second lesson. If you enjoy reading and want to feel a huge sense of relief during the service, become a reader! (the huge sense of relief doesn't happen until after you've completed your reading and sat down).

Contact:

Jessica Salazar

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Annual Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale has its origins in one woman's desire to keep things from going to the landfill. Every year parishioners donate loads of items to the Rummage Sale, and then for four weeks volunteers sort, price and arrange all the items. The sale is open for two days, and in that time literally hundreds of people walk through the parish hall looking for treasures, fun tchotchkes, or clothes for the kids to wear to school. The money raised from the sale goes to fund capital building improvements. If you love thrift shops, garage sales, and/or organizing, join the Rummage Sale!

Contact:

Gloria Jones

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Scholarship Fund

The mission of SFOSF (St. Francis Outreach Scholarship Fund) is to help students of limited means with their unmet college expenses. Our organization is celebrating our 26th year. Our goal is to help students through all four years of college until graduation. The students must stay in touch with us and provide us with their grades and updates on their classes. We do not promise assistance but help and mentor them as appropriate.

We are at this time a group of 6 parishioners, and we will have a new mentor this year. We always welcome new members and mentors. Many of these students are first-generation college students and don't have much guidance in their home situation.

In fall 2023, we helped 7 new college freshmen. Most of them needed laptops as they use school computers which they need to turn in at the end of high school. We also assisted students from previous years, sophomores through those in their senior year. We disbursed \$18,803 in 2023 to support our student's needs, including tuition (covering unsubsidized loans), laptops, books, and other study materials.

We are so proud of our students and so grateful for the support provided by the Parish in our fundraising efforts.

Contact:

Cheryl Gutierrez

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St. Anne's Guild

We are a diverse group of ladies from many different areas, and we welcome you to join us. We meet in the Boardroom on the 4th Monday of each month at 6pm. Our meetings begin with Devotions and prayers for people in need, led by Susie Zimmerman. Two members per month are co-hostesses and provide delicious goodies along with coffee, tea, and occasionally wine. We have our own Distinguished Speaker Series and WE are the speakers with members giving a brief bio of their life so far. It has proved to be very interesting and fun.

We provide refreshments after the 10am service on 3rd Sunday of each month, cookies, cakes, fruits vegetables, and of course doughnut holes. Our main Fundraiser is our Christmas Auction, another very lively activity to which all are invited. We also provide and serve food for Memorial services for which we receive donations. For the Antiques Show Gala we provide food and staff the dessert table. We help staff the Harvest Cupboard and provide help in the kitchen or wherever needed. We also help with the Annual Rummage Sale.

Contact:

Anna Eakins

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St. Teresa's Guild

St. Teresa's Guild at St. Francis is a dedicated group of women supporting women and children in the South Bay through mission, fellowship, and care.

Our Annual Fundraiser:

Our Chinese New Year event is held in the parish hall and features Chinese food prepared by our members, entertainment, and a live auction with unique items and treasures. Everyone leaves with something special.

Organizations We Support:

- **Mama Hill's Help:** A Watts-based after-school program providing a safe, violence-free zone for children and their families.
- **House of Hope:** Located in San Pedro, this community helps women recover from drug and alcohol addiction, restoring their lives and purpose.
- **St. Francis Outreach:** We also contribute to Harbor Interfaith and St. Luke's by donating food and essentials.

Join Us:

We welcome everyone to join our group or participate in our events. Reach out to any member for more information.

Contact:

Robin Pano

r.pano@hotmail.com

Vestry

The Vestry is the governing board of the church. If the clergy handle all things spiritual, then the Vestry is responsible for all things temporal: paying the bills, creating a budget, and making sure that the buildings and grounds are cared for and properly maintained. If you would like to take an active role in the governance of the parish, you should join the vestry.

Contact:

Shelly Zak

Senior Warden

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Our Clergy

The Rev. Jason Shelby, Rector

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Our Staff

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Children and Families

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